also imparted from time to time to upgrade their knowledge and skill. They are, therefore adequately trained and equipped to face the challenges in the present environment.

Review of rules for commercial employment of ex-servicemen

†3385. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the rules for allowing the ex-military officers for commercial employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ex-military officers alongwith ranks thereof who are allowed by the Ministry for commercial employments at present;

(d) the details of ex-servicemen out of above engaged in foreign commercial firms;

(e) whether Government are formulating any action plan to prevent the leakage of classified information of the forces; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The rules for granting permission to retired officials for commercial employment have appropriate checks so as to ensure that a retired officer does not take advantage of his erstwhile position in the Services for commercial gains. The rules are reviewed as and when considered necessary.

(c) During the last three years, 109 retired officers of Armed Forces were permitted to accept commercial employment comprising officers of the rank of or equivalent to Lt. Gens (14), Maj Gens (24) and Brigs/Cols (71).

(d) One retired Cmde of Indian Navy was permitted to accept commercial employment as a Senior Training Consultant with Singapore Technologies Education and Training.

(e) and (f) Detailed instructions exist regarding safety of classified information in the three Services. These instructions are reviewed and updated from time to time. In case of any violation of these instructions,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

stern disciplinary action is taken against the officers concerned. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in the matter.

Grounding of DHRUV helicopters

†3386. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Dhruv' helicopters have been grounded by the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are carrying out any research to further develop the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The 'Dhruv' Helicopters of the Army Aviation have been grounded with effect from 25th November, 2005. This was done as a precautionary measure after Dhruv helicopter J-4054 belonging to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) crashed due to loss of Tail Rotor Control near Siripuram, 150 Km.from Hyderabad.

The accident was investigated by a Board of Inquiry ordered by the HAL. Based on the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry, it was decided to carry out evaluation flights on selected Dhruv helicopters by experimental test pilots of the HAL and Army Aviation under the aegis of HAL. Two Army Aviation Dhruv helicopters Z-1110 and Z-1116 were flown for 31.30 and 30.45 hours respectively for these evaluation flights. Based on the report of these evaluation flights, Regional Centre of Military Air-worthiness had laid down following modifications/rectifications to be incorporated by the HAL:—

(i) Stiffening of Tail Boom attachment.

(ii) Installation of Tail Rotor Vibration monitoring unit.

(iii) Stiffening of Vertical Fin front spar.

(iv) Modification of Flight Data Recorder.

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